[1st April 1961

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : What is the average membership of a society?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It depends upon the type of society. A rural agricultural credit society may have anything between 200 and 300 members and agricultural banks may have 1,000.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Have the societies helped to increase agricultural production? Are Government satisfied?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Government are satisfied that increased co-operative credit has been given to agriculturists.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Have they helped in eliminating the middlemen between tenants and big religious and other institutions?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Obviously it is not possible to eliminate middlemen. The co-operative credit given in the State, which I think, is the highest in India, covers only 30 per cent of the credit needs of the agricultural population. The other portion is met from other sources.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Have they been able to recover all loans?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is too general a question. Unless particular instances are given, it is not possible to answer.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Are overdues more than 20 per cent of borrowings?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : He may put a separate question.

Coimbatore District Co-operative Central Stores

* 226 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN (on behalf of SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR) : Will the Hon. the Minister for
3-10 p.m. Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether any instances of defalcations have been brought to the notice of the Government in regard to the Coimbatore District Co-operative Central Stores; and

(b) if so, the amounts involved and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under investigation.